

Remarks

The Examiner has found Applicants' reply of September 3, 2004 not fully responsive to the Official Action of June 17, 2004. The Examiner objected because the alternative language of claim 1 remained unclear and because added Claims 15 and 16 are duplicative of Claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended to more specifically claim the novel elements of the invention and claims 15-17 have been canceled and dependent Claims 18-20 have been added.

The Examiner indicated in the Official Action of June 17, 2004 that Claim 1 was allowable if rewritten to overcome 35 U.S.C. §112 objections. The Examiner found the amended Claim 1 remained unclear based on the following alternative language: "that the other code parts are one or more sliding parts in the form of a code rack, or a sleeve which is moved in a linear fashion or one or more code wheels.

Claim 1 has been amended to remove the alternative language to which the Examiner objected and the three alternative elements for "the other code parts" are separately included in newly added Claims 18-20.

Applicants believe that Claim 1 is novel regardless of the specific form of "the other code parts". Thus, the patentability of Claim 1 is unaffected by this amendment.

Claims 4, 8, 9, 11 and 14 have been amended to comply with the requirements for proper antecedent basis.

Entry of the Amendments, and favorable consideration thereof is earnestly requested. For the reasons described above, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending Claims, Claim 1-14, 18-20 are in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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